



# PIPELINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62701

## Annual Distribution Reports are Due

**DUE DATE — March 15, 2005**

Be sure to file a copy with both the U.S. DOT and the ICC.

The Annual Distribution and Transmission (if applicable) Reports are due to the Information Systems Manager in Washington, D.C. by March 15, 2005. Please remember that a copy should be sent to our office at the same time. Send a copy to the ICC office at:

**Illinois Commerce Commission  
Attn: Nancy Standridge  
4th Floor  
527 East Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62701**



As noted last year, these forms have been revised and require you to summarize your natural gas distribution main mileage by age of pipe, along with added categories on leaks that you discover and repair. Forms can be found at the following web-site or feel free to contact our office for more information:

**<http://ops.dot.gov/forms.htm>**

## **ICC Pipeline Safety Contacts**

### **Program Manager**

Rex Evans 217-785-1165

### **Secretary**

Nancy Standridge 217-785-1416

### **Inspectors**

Darin Burk 217-785-3404

Charles Gribbins 217-785-1073

Donald Hankins 217-558-2662

Mark Kern 217-785-1166

Randy Stewart 217-785-1157

Jim Watts 217-782-2339

**Fax** 217-524-5516

***24 Hr. Emergency #***

***For Reporting Accidents 217-782-5050***

## **ICC 2005 Holiday Calendar**

The ICC Offices will be closed on the following dates in 2005:

February 11—Friday  
February 21—Monday  
May 30—Monday  
July 4—Monday  
September 5—Monday  
October 10—Monday  
November 11—Friday  
November 24—Thursday  
November 25—Friday  
December 26—Monday



Lane Miller, Transportation Safety Institute. Speaker at the 2004 Gas Pipeline Safety Conference held in Decatur, IL.

## 49 CFR 192 Rule Changes in 2004

Updates were made to several code sections of 49 CFR Part 192 in the past year. The following are the most significant changes.

### § 192.723 Distribution systems: Leakage surveys.

(b) \* \* \*

(2) A leakage survey with leak detector equipment must be conducted outside business districts as frequently as necessary, but at least once every 5 calendar years at intervals not exceeding 63 months. However, for cathodically unprotected distribution lines subject to § 192.465(e) on which electrical surveys for corrosion are impractical, a leakage survey must be conducted at least once every 3 calendar years at intervals not exceeding 39 months.

### Subpart O--Pipeline Integrity Management

Many portions of the section on Pipeline Integrity Management section to 49 CFR Part 192 have been updated over the past year. If you have intrastate transmission pipelines and are affected by these changes you should be keeping up to date with this information. Should you have any questions please contact our office.



### Sec. 192.3 Definitions.

\* \* \* \* \*

Transmission line means a pipeline, other than a gathering line, that: (1) Transports gas from a gathering line or storage facility to a distribution center, storage facility, or large volume customer that is not downstream from a distribution center; (2) operates at a hoop stress of 20 percent or more of SMYS; or (3) transports gas within a storage field.



**Note:** A large volume customer may receive similar volumes of gas as a distribution center, and includes factories, power plants, and institutional users of gas.

## Atmospheric Corrosion and Corroded Vent Screens

We have been noticing an apparent problem concerning 1960's era customer meter sets containing Universal regulators. The vent screens in these regulators corrode at a faster rate than in most other regulators. This is something to watch for during your atmospheric corrosion inspections



or whenever maintenance might be planned on a customer's meter set.

Also, make sure atmospheric corrosion surveys are taking the time to properly evaluate all facilities.

## Small Operator Training

With the implementation and enhancement of operator qualification programs, the ICC and Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (IMUA) have recognized a need for modification of training conferences.

The IMUA is planning to hold a training session March 10 and 11, 2005, at the Ameren training center in Pawnee, IL. The session will include training and evaluation based on specific tasks performed by municipal gas operators. The training and qualification are intended to meet subsequent evaluation requirements. The IMUA will be sending notices detailing this session. Visit the IMUA web site at [www.ilmua.org](http://www.ilmua.org) for more information.

### Attn: Master Meter Operators

The ICC has received requests for **master meter** operators training tailored specifically to their small gas system operations. We are interested in recommendations as to the type of training needed/wanted and programs that proved valuable in the past.

We would like to remind all operators that continued training is required in Illinois. If you have recommendations for master meter training please contact Darin Burk at 217-785-3404. If enough interest is shown, a program will be scheduled in the fall of 2005.

## Damage Prevention

### Incident at Walgreens in Addison, Illinois, October, 2004

This picture shows what can happen if proper care is not taken when directional boring and adequate care is not taken to confirm the location of underground natural gas facilities.



## “Hand Dig!”

Webster’s New World Dictionary defines the following:



**Dig** - to break and turn up or remove (ground, etc) with a spade or other tool, or with hands, claws, snout, etc.

**Hand** - the part of the human arm below the wrist, including the palm, fingers, thumb, used for grasping or gripping.

**Spade** - a heavy, flat-bladed, long-handled tool used for digging by pressing the metal blade into the ground with the foot.

A recent incident, involving an improper excavation method, continues to show the repeat problem of insufficient care being taken to identify the exact loca-

tion of the underground natural gas facilities. A backhoe operator was attempting to excavate to a depth near the believed location of the marked natural gas facility. Due to the failure to sufficiently expose the gas main using hand excavation, the operator made contact with and breached the side wall of a 2” PE gas main. The piping damage resulted in a failure of the pipe wall releasing natural gas that was eventually ignited before the source could be “safely” shut down. The release and ignition resulted in damage to two structures and an automobile. Fortunately there were no injuries or fatalities as a result of this incident.

Illinois Administrative Code Part 265.40 (d) outlines the requirements to plan excavation to avoid interference with the underground facility. This states in part as follows:

*d) Plan the excavation or demolition to avoid or minimize the possibility of damage to underground utility facilities within the tolerance zone by utilizing precautions that include, but are not limited to, hand excavation, vacuum excavation, and visually inspecting the excavation while in progress until clear of the existing marked facilities;*

Please don’t make the mistake and assume a backhoe operator is good enough that this won’t happen. Property damage, physical injury or worse of all, the loss of life, can occur due to the failure to take necessary precautions during excavation.

## “HAND DIG”



*“Plastic Pipe to a Backhoe is like Butter to a Knife”*



## *Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators*

**[www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com)**

### **Illinois Commerce Commission** **2004 JULIE Enforcement Statistics**

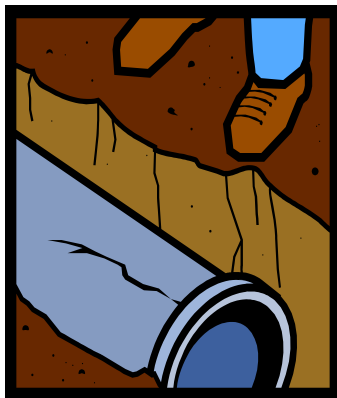
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Since Inception</u>
<b>Results of Completed Cases:</b>				
Cases Withdrawn	15	21	6	42
Notices of Termination	37	129	58	224
Warning Letters	14	69	62	145
Notices of Violation	2	77	34	113
Total Penalties assessed -	\$4,000	\$48,626	\$59,540	\$112,166
Total Penalties collected -	\$0	\$31,325	\$39,481	\$70,806
<b>TOTAL</b>	68	296	160	524
<b>Incident Reports Submitted by utilities:</b>				
Failure to call for Refresh (4a)	0	0	3	3
No valid JULIE Ticket (4d&4g)	84	116	91	291
Failure to exercise due care (4b)	54	23	21	98
Failure to immediately notify utility of damage (7)	2	1	0	3
False emergency locate request (6a)	3	2	1	6
Failure to provide proper support for facilities (4e)	1	0	0	1
Improper Backfilling (4f)	1	0	1	2
No Violation	2	5	0	7
Destroying Facility Markings (11h)	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	147	147	118	412
<b>Incident Reports Submitted by Excavators &amp; Others:</b>				
Failure to mark in 48 hours (10)	25	16	40	81
No valid JULIE ticket (4d)	2	7	6	15
Failure to mark properly (10)	1	11	5	17
Failure to exercise due care (4b)	1	5	9	15
No Violation	3	2	3	8
Failure to Join JULIE (3)	0	47	3	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	32	88	66	186
<b>TOTAL Incident Reports Submitted</b>	179	235	184	598
<b>Cases Heard by Advisory Committee</b>	0	51	17	68
<b>Number of Open Cases</b>			74	

Number in parenthesis denotes section of Damage Prevention Act



## Trench Safety

A Reminder to the Operators about taking adequate precautions in excavated trenches.



All natural gas operators should be reminded that 49 CFR Part 192.605 (b) (9) requires that operators should take adequate precautions in excavated trenches to protect their employees from unsafe accumulations of vapor or gas. This requirement states in part:

*(b) Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must include procedures for the following, if applicable, to provide safety during maintenance and operations.*

*(9) Taking adequate precautions in excavated trenches to protect personnel from the hazards of unsafe accumulations of vapor or gas, and making available when needed at the excavation, emergency rescue equipment, including a breathing apparatus and, a rescue harness and line.*

An operator's personnel working in excavation, and trenching operations should take the proper precaution to protect their lives. Every year in Illinois, workers in the industry suffer misfortune. This is why pipeline safety requires employers to take extensive precautions to protect workers.

All personnel working in the vicinity of a known or suspected gas leak, must have some type of procedure to cover full protective clothing with some type of breathing equipment. Personnel working in a suspected ignitable atmosphere (i.e., attempting to shut off a gas line) shall use breathing equipment and shall be covered by a manned Fire extinguisher. The number of exposed personnel should be kept to an absolute minimum at all times. Your Operation and Maintenance Manuals should have procedures as to how they will handle accumulation of gas in excavated trenches, regardless of depth. If the company or municipal has procedures in the O&M plan, they should be appropriately reviewed and followed.

## Public Education

With the introduction of RP1162 pipeline system operators were required to review and revise their Public Education Programs. The ICC OPS will be taking a closer look at the Programs in 2005. Please verify that your Program has been modified to meet the intent of RP1162. Contact our office should you have further questions.

*(Karen Butler—OPS Kansas City, is shown below speaking on Public Education programs at the ICC Pipeline Safety Conference in June 2004)*



## Operator Qualification

### Advisory Bulletin

USDOT Office of Pipeline Safety issued an advisory bulletin to owners and operators of natural gas pipeline systems concerning minimum requirements for operator qualification ("OQ") programs for personnel performing covered tasks on the pipeline facility. The bulletin reminds system owners and operators that the deadline for modifying their OQ programs to comply with additional statutory requirements in Section 13 of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act (PSIA) of 2002 was December 17, 2004.

The PSIA requirements include:

1. An operator OQ program must include a periodic

requalification component that provides for examination or testing of individuals including the methods used.

2. Appropriate training to ensure that individuals have the necessary knowledge and skills to perform the covered tasks.
3. If the operator significantly modifies a program that has been reviewed for compliance by RSPA/OPS the operator must notify RSPA/OPS. The ICC acts as an agent for OPS.



### **OQ Protocol Element 9 Inspections**

The ICC Pipeline Safety Staff will be using Element 9 of the OQ Plan Inspection Protocols issued by OPS during Field and Construction Audits. Element 9 is the field inspection of OQ program implementation. Element 9 covers: field/job supervisor responsibilities, procedure review, recognition of AOC's, change communication, evaluation process, program improvement, consistency of implementation and third party/internal audits or inspection. The ICC Inspectors will be asking questions to determine knowledge and understanding of the operator's OQ program by those charged with field implementation.

### **U.S. DOT Reorganization**

Congress recently passed the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act (P.L. 108-426) and President Bush signed the legislation into law on November 30, 2004.

The purpose of the Act is to provide the Department a more focused research organization and establish a separate operating administration for pipeline safety and hazardous materials transportation safety operations. It will allow more effective coordination and management of the Department's research portfolio and expedite implementation of cross-cutting, innovative technologies. The Act will also reflect the Department's longstanding commitment to the safety of the nation's pipeline infrastructure and continuing

emphasis on the safe and secure transport of hazardous materials throughout the transportation network.

The above reorganization will result in the creation of two new organizations. This will mean the establishment of the new Research and Innovative Technologies Administration (RITA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The Office of Pipeline Safety will be placed under the PHMSA organization. It is expected that the transition to the new organization will be seamless and that the safety and efficiency of our nation's transportation systems will remain uninterrupted.

### **Online**

**ICC Home Page -**  
**[www.icc.state.il.us](http://www.icc.state.il.us)**

**Office of Pipeline Safety**  
**<http://ops.dot.gov/>**

**Public Awareness Resources**  
**<http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/edu/rp1162.htm>**

**Integrity Management Resources**  
**<http://primis.rspa.dot.gov/iim/>**

**Common Ground Alliance**  
**<http://>**



**[www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com)**

**[www.commongroundalliance.com/](http://www.commongroundalliance.com/)**

## **2005 Operator / Inspector Listing**

### **Public Utilities**

**Alliant Energy**  
**Interstate Power -**  
**South Beloit -**  
Gribbins

**Ameren Companies**  
**Ameren CILCO**  
**Ameren CIPS**  
**Ameren IP**  
**Ameren UE**  
**Ameren Services**

**Primary Contact -**  
Watts  
**Secondary Contact -**  
Kern

**ATMOS Energy -** Stewart

**Consumers Gas -** Gribbins

**Illinois Gas Company-** Hankins

**MidAmerican Energy -** Kern

**Mt. Carmel Public Util. -** Gribbins

**North Shore Gas -** Don Hankins

**Nicor Gas Company**

**Primary Contact -**  
Gribbins  
**Secondary Contact -**  
Stewart

**Peoples Energy -** Hankins

### **Municipal Systems**

Aledo - Gribbins  
Anna - Hankins  
Auburn - Gribbins  
Belle Rive - Gribbins  
Bethany - Kern  
Bluford - Kern  
Bushnell - Gribbins  
Cairo - Hankins  
Casey - Kern  
Chester - Burk  
Cisne - Watts

Clay City - Gribbins  
Cobden - Hankins  
Creal Springs - Hankins  
Crossville - Burk  
Dahlgren - Gribbins  
Divernon - Gribbins  
Dupo - Burk  
Edinburg - Kern  
Enfield - Burk  
Equality - Gribbins  
Fairfield - Kern  
Findlay - Kern  
Flat Rock - Burk  
Flora - Gribbins  
Franklin - Watts  
Geff - Watts  
Grand Tower - Hankins  
Grayville - Kern  
Greenup - Kern  
Jonesboro - Hankins  
Karnak - Hankins  
Louisville - Watts  
Marshall - Watts  
Martinsville - Watts  
McLeansboro - Gribbins  
Milford - Gribbins  
Morton - Gribbins  
Nashville - Kern  
New Boston - Gribbins  
Norris City - Gribbins  
Pawnee - Gribbins  
Pinckneyville - Kern  
Pittsburg - Hankins  
Pittsfield - Kern  
Pleasant Hill - Kern  
Rantoul - Watts  
Red Bud - Burk  
Riverton - Watts  
Roodhouse - Kern  
Rossville - Gribbins  
Salem - Gribbins  
Shawneetown - Watts  
Sims - Gribbins  
Stonington - Kern  
Sullivan - Kern  
Tamms - Hankins  
Thebes - Hankins  
Toledo - Kern  
Vienna - Hankins  
Waterloo - Burk  
Waverly - Kern  
Wayne City - Kern  
Westville - Gribbins  
White Hall - Watts  
Winchester - Watts

### **Master Metered Systems**

Alexander County Housing - Hankins  
Franklin County Housing - Hankins  
Greene County Housing - Kern  
Massac County Housing - Watts  
Peoria Housing - Kern  
Pulaski County Housing - Hankins  
Saline County Housing - Watts  
Shelby County Housing - Hankins  
Union County Housing - Hankins  
University of Illinois - Burk  
White County Housing - Burk  
Williamson County Housing - Hankins

### **Intrastate Transmission**

Egyptian Storage, Ridgeway -  
Gribbins  
Elysium Energy - Burk  
Gallagher Drilling - Hankins  
Grayson Hill Farms - Gribbins  
Illinois Gas Transmission - Burk  
University of Illinois Lateral - Burk

### **Direct Sales**

**Primary Contact for all -** Burk

Aquila Services  
Mississippi River Transmission  
Panhandle Eastern  
Prairieland Pipeline  
Southern Illinois Power Co-op  
Vector Pipeline



Illinois Commerce Commission  
Pipeline Safety – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
527 E. Capitol Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

«Names»